

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~high temperature gas seal for use in a high temperature fuel cell~~ comprising:
ceramic fibres providing a matrix for retaining ceramic powder and being capable of remaining flexible at operating temperatures of the fuel cell;
ceramic powder being disposed within the matrix, a substantial proportion of the ceramic powder having a particle size of about 5 μ m in diameter;
the ceramic fibres and powder being capable of resisting sintering at operating temperatures of the fuel cell, wherein the seal is ~~unsintered and which~~ is substantially free of binder; ~~said seal formed from firing an unfired state comprising ceramic fibres, ceramic powder and a binder and having~~ has a pre-fired fired porosity ~~between about 25% to about 50%, which increases upon firing to between about 35% to about 60%.~~

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 2 1 wherein the ceramic fibres and ceramic powder may be the same material or different and may comprise alumina or zirconia.
4. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 3 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of less than about 45%.
5. (Original) The seal of claim 4 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of less than about 40%.

6. (Original) The seal of claim 5 wherein the seal has a pre-fired porosity of less than about 35%.
7. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 1 ~~to 6~~ or claims 3 to 6 which is formed by a tape casting process.
8. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 7 which has a fired porosity of less ~~than~~ than about 50%.
9. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 8 which has a fired porosity of less ~~than~~ than about 45%.
10. (Currently amended) The seal of claim 9 which has a fired porosity of less ~~than~~ than about 40%.